

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of this application as examined pursuant to the office action of June 13, 2005. In the office action, Claims 1-99 were examined. Claims 14-15, 32, 41, 43, 55, 79, and 95 have been cancelled by amendment. Therefore, Claims 1-13, 16-31, 33-40, 42, 44-54, 56-78, 80-94, and 96-99 remain pending.

Claims 2-3, 6, 25-26, 29-30, 34-35, 41-42, 64-65, 67-69, 72-77, 83 and 85 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-14, 25, 26, 30, 32, 36, 43 and 46 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,718,486 to Roselli et al. Claims 1-14, 26, 29, 32, 43, 47, 51, 53-54, 64, 66 and 69 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,854,069 to Kampe et al. Claim 78 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,178,445 to Dawkins et al. Claims 15-24, 27-28, 31, 33-35, 37-40, 44-45, 48-50, 52, 55-63, 70-71, 79-82, 84, 86-93 and 95-99 were objected to.

Original independent Claims 1, 54, 78, and 94 have been amended to incorporate the features of claims dependent thereon to place those independent claims in condition for allowance pursuant to the references in the office action to objected-to claims. In addition, previously dependent Claims 31, 33, 40, 44, 52, 58, 80, 84 have been made independent by incorporating therein the limitations associated with their respective independent intervening claims, and any intervening dependent claims, as applicable. Remaining pending dependent claims have been made dependent on such independent claims, either directly or through any intervening claims. Independent Claim 32 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully suggest that the amendments made to the claims place the allowable claims in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants respectfully suggest that the amendments made to those allowable claims and to claims rejected pursuant to 35 USC § 102(e) successfully traverse the rejections made on that basis.

The 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, Rejection

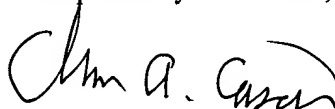
Claims 2-3, 6, 25-26, 29-30, 34-35, 41-42, 64-65, 67-69, 72-77, 83 and 85 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have either amended or cancelled the noted claims to address this rejection. Applicants respectfully

suggest that the amendments made to the claims successfully traverse the 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, rejections. Withdrawal of those rejections is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants suggest that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Seven (7) new independent claims have been added by this amendment, bringing the total number of pending independent claims in the application to 12. An additional filing fee of \$1400 is required and a fee transmittal sheet for that purpose is included herewith, charging the additional filing fee to the assignee's deposit account 501127. Eight claims have been cancelled. Therefore, no additional filing fee is required for the total number of claims pending.

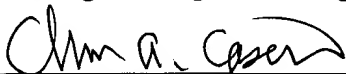
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 13, 2005. It is hereby requested that this filing be assigned a filing date of October 13, 2005.



Chris A. Caseiro